

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 4187 Cattle

SPONSOR(S): Albritton

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** None

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	Kaiser	Blalock
2) State Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Current law provides that all female calves born in the state used for dairy breeding purposes must be vaccinated with an approved *Brucella abortus* vaccine by state or federal regulatory officials or licensed, accredited veterinarians. Once vaccinated, the calves are "tattooed" to indicate certain information regarding when and where the vaccine was administered. This information must be supplied to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department) to aid in the tracking of reactor or suspect animals in a herd.

The bill repeals s. 585.155, F.S. Florida has been declared brucellosis-free since 2001 and no cases have been revealed since that time. Although calfhood vaccination continues on a voluntary basis, the vaccine is no longer provided at state expense.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Section 585.155, F.S., provides that all female calves born in the state used for dairy breeding purposes must be vaccinated with an approved Brucella abortus vaccine by state or federal regulatory officials or licensed, accredited veterinarians. When vaccinated, calves must be tattooed with the official shield tattoo "V", which is registered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in the right ear, preceded by the numeral of the quarter of the year and followed by the last numeral of the year. Additionally, each calf must be individually identified at the time of vaccination, if not already identified by tattoo or brand, by an official vaccination ear tag in the right ear. The tag must include the designated state prefix, followed by the letter "V," two additional letters, and four numerals. Registration tattoos or individual brand numbers may be substituted for the official ear tags. The identification must be accurately recorded on the official vaccination record. Duplicate records of these vaccinations must be supplied to the department and comprise the official record of vaccination.

Each owner of a herd of cattle in the state must enroll the herd in a program to determine whether the herd is infected with brucellosis. When reactors or suspects are revealed in a herd, the department and the owner must develop a plan to eliminate the infection in accordance with the Uniform Methods and Rules for Brucellosis Eradication and the rules of the state. The plan must include the required testing, removal of reactor animals, calfhood vaccination, and whole-herd vaccination to clear the herd of infection.

The department must establish low brucellosis incidence areas and brucellosis free areas that can be recognized by the USDA as having Class "Free," Class "A," or Class "B" status under the Uniform Methods and Rules for Brucellosis Eradication. The only vaccine that qualifies under chapter, 585, F.S., is an approved vaccine produced under license of the USDA.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill repeals s. 585.155, F.S. Florida has been declared brucellosis-free since 2001 and no cases have been revealed since that time. Although calfhood vaccination continues on a voluntary basis, the vaccine is no longer provided at state expense.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Repeals s. 585.155, F.S., relating to the inspection and vaccination of cattle for brucellosis.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None